THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Immediately after assuming office, the Minister reviewed the various programmes and directed senior officials of the Ministry to monitor and implement the various schemes for conservation of environment and control of pollution in an effective manner. The schemes have been formulated keeping in view the observations made by various industries and Non-Governmental Organisations as well as the suggestions received from the State Governments from time to time.

Pollution Control Wing for Industries

1837. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has mooted a proposal to motivate the industries in India to open a pollution control wing attached to their factories in order to minimise the environmental pollution which is gradualy increasing at a rapid stride in the major cities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the industry to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) While according environmental clearance to the development projects, the Ministry of Environment & Forests stipulates a number of conditions for safeguarding environment including creation of Environmental Cell and providing of monitoring stations. As promotional measures, the Government has also been encouraging the industries to adopt clean technologies, undertake waste minimisation measures and incorporate Environmental Management System (EMS).

(c) About 15 waste minimisation circles in clusters of small scale industries have so far been established to conserve resources and reduce pollution with the active participation of industries. Besides, more than 25 major companies have so far obtained EMS certification and many others are in the process of adopting EMS.

Degraded forest area in Bihar

1838. SHRI S.S.AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the total degraded forest area in the State of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the State and Central Government for the regeneration of the degraded forest areas in the State within a time frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Performance of the pollution control plants of Khetri Copper Complex

1839. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pollution control plants of the Khetri Copper Complex Ltd. Rajasthan are working satisfactisily;

(b) how much money has been spent on the pollution control equipment so far;

(c) whether any central study team has so far visited the complex during the last three years to assess the pollution problem of the area; and

(d) whether any Report in this regard has been submitted to Government; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?